

Manhattan Coin Club Minutes

February 12, 2013

President Matt called the meeting to order. There was a large attendance for this meeting.

Treasurer Dave stated the club had a current balance of \$1,989.50.

Matt announced the next meetings topic would be the planning for the upcoming club Coin Show to be held at the Clarion on March 17th. Program Chair Chris did ask that those who are willing to work ticket sales for the raffle should contact him. Currently there are 17 tables sold. The sale of the tables goes toward paying for the rental of the room and advertising. Most of the money raised is through the raffle. This year there will be a Manhattan bill and an item generously donated by Jerry.

A flyer was passed around offering a \$500 reward for information regarding the theft of a 1800 silver dollar NGS AUSS valued at \$8,000 [from Christopher's Fine Jewelry](#).

Ray passed around a flyer on the ANA's [World's Fair of Money](#) in Chicago at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center from Aug. 13-17, 2013. Jerry announced the [Cessna Coin and Stamp Show](#), February 16, 2013 – February 17 at the Cessna Center in Wichita. Doyle announced an upcoming [auction](#) in Windom, KS on the 23rd with 500 lots.

Guy asked the club if we should sell a set of our three rolled coins for \$5. A motion was made, seconded, and the motion passed.

The program on Hobo Nickels was presented by longtime U.S. coin dealer Virgil Marshall, the "Penny Merchant" of Wymore, Nebraska. Mr. Marshall started out by telling the club how he got into coin collecting.

"In 1957 I had just gotten out of college. I was working for my father at Marshall Produce and a fella I worked with was a coin collector. He suggested that I collect coins," Marshall said. He went down to the local dime store, bought a folder for collecting dimes and started building a collection. "After four or five days I had collected 40 different dimes," Marshall said. One of those happened to be a very rare coin. "I didn't know that until my friend told me though," he said. When his friend offered him \$20 for the dime, Marshall chose to keep it instead. "I said I'd keep it. It took me a week to find this one, what if I can't find another one," he said. In 51 years he has never found another. "That's what got me started. If I hadn't found that one rare coin in the first week, coins probably would have been another fad. I probably would have moved on," he said.

Mr. Marshall also told us about purchasing 1,100 bags of pennies in 1967 and passed around a photograph of the vault where they were stored when he purchased them.

Mr. Marshall talked about the difference between hobos, tramps, and bums. The hobo had a code and was willing to work to pay for food and other necessities. While Mr. Marshall did not use these words but I think to summarize the basic differences, "the hobo works and wanders, the tramp drinks and wanders, and the bum just drinks." Hobos would start work in Texas and work their way all the way to Canada.

He said we know the actual names of very few of the artists who made the old original hobo nickels. Bo and Bert are by far the best known of the original hobo nickel makers. There were other early makers of hobo nickels, who were prolific carvers and made pieces of a distinctive style, have been nicknamed. The original Hobo nickels were made from 1913 to 1938. After that date they are considered modern

More information may be found on the [Original Hobo Nickel Society](#) 's web site.

Here are some examples from the Society's web page:



G.W. "Bo" Hughes

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Stubbles McGee



The Club applauded Mr. Marshall for his fine program and Dave presented hi with a set of the clubs three rolled coins.

The meeting was adjourned after the silent auction.

Chuck T.
Secretary